

pursuant to §3001.9 and shall serve a copy upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* Each interrogatory shall be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for objection shall be stated in the manner prescribed by paragraph (c) of this section. The party responding to the interrogatories shall serve the answers on the party who served the interrogatories within 20 days of the service of the interrogatories or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. The answers are to be signed by the person making them. If the person responding to the interrogatory is unavailable to sign the answer when filed, a signature page must be filed within ten days thereafter with the Commission, but need not be served on participants. Copies of the answers to interrogatories shall be filed with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and shall be served upon other participants pursuant to §3001.12(b).

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an interrogatory, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the interrogatory, providing estimates of cost and work hours required, to the extent possible. An interrogatory otherwise proper is not necessarily objectionable because an answer would involve an opinion or contention that relates to fact or the application of law to fact, but the Commission or presiding officer may order that such an interrogatory need not be answered until a prehearing conference or other later time. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to interrogatories shall serve the objections on the party who served the interrogatories within 10 days of the service of the interrogatories. Copies of objections to interrogatories shall be filed

with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and shall be served upon the proponent of the interrogatory and the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Compelled answers.* The Commission, or the presiding officer, upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, may compel answer to an interrogatory to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid, or may compel an additional answer if the initial answer is found to be inadequate. Such compelled answers shall be served on the party who moved to compel the answer within 10 days of the date of the order compelling an answer or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Copies of the answers shall be filed with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and on participants pursuant to §3001.12(b).

(e) *Supplemental answers.* A participant who has answered interrogatories is under the duty to seasonably amend a prior answer if he/she obtains information upon the basis of which he/she knows that the answer was incorrect when made or is no longer true. (A participant filing a supplemental answer shall indicate whether the answer merely supplements the previous answer to make it current, or whether it is intended as a complete replacement for the answer previously given.)

(f) *Orders.* The Commission or the presiding officer may order that any participant or person shall answer on such terms and conditions as are just and may for good cause make any protective order, including an order limiting or conditioning interrogatories, as justice requires to protect a party or person from undue annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or expense.

[45 FR 65578, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12115, Mar. 6, 1995]

#### **§3001.26 Requests for production of documents or things for purpose of discovery.**

(a) *Service and contents.* In the interest of expedition and limited to information which appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, any participant may serve on any other participant to the

proceeding a request to produce and permit the participant making the request, or someone acting in his/her behalf, to inspect and copy any designated documents or things which constitute or contain matters, not privileged, which are relevant to the subject matter involved in the proceeding and which are in the custody or control of the participant upon whom the request is served. The request shall set forth the items to be inspected either by individual item or category, and describe each item and category with reasonable particularity, and shall specify a reasonable time, place and manner of making inspection. The participant requesting the production of documents or things shall file a copy of the request with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* The participant upon whom the request is served shall serve a written answer on the participant who filed the request within 20 days after the service of the request, or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer. The answer shall state, with respect to each item or category, that inspection will be permitted as requested unless the request is objected to pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. The participant answering the request shall sign and file a copy of the answer with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon other participants who request them.

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an item or category, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the request, providing estimates of cost and work hours required, to the extent possible. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to a request shall serve the objection on the party requesting production of docu-

ments or things, upon the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and upon the Postal Service, within 10 days of the request for production. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Orders.* The Commission or the presiding officer may, on such terms and conditions as are just and reasonable, order that any participant in a proceeding shall respond to a request for inspection, and may make any protective order of the nature provided in paragraph (f) of § 3001.25 as may be appropriate. Upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, the Commission or the presiding officer may compel production of documents or things to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid. Such compelled documents or things shall be made available to the party making the motion within 10 days of the date of the order compelling production or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Documents or things ordered to be produced shall also be made available to the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and to the other participants who request them.

[45 FR 65579, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12116, Mar. 6, 1995]

#### **§ 3001.27 Requests for admissions for purpose of discovery.**

(a) *Service and content.* In the interest of expedition any participant may serve upon any other participant a written request for the admission, for purposes of the pending proceeding only, of any relevant, unprivileged facts, including the genuineness of any documents or exhibits to be presented in the hearing. The participant requesting the admission shall file a copy of the request with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* Each matter of which an admission is requested shall be separately set forth and is admitted unless within 20 days after service of the request, or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, the participant to whom the request is